

Had I been present I would have voted "nay" on 210 "nay" on 211, "yea" on 212, "nay" on 213.

## FARM EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, recently I, along with a bipartisan list of cosponsors, introduced H.R. 1874, the Farm Employment Equity Act, also referenced as the "Unemployment Tax Act." The proposal reduces the unemployment tax burden on smaller American agricultural operations—the kind typically know as family farms.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to report today, the Colorado General Assembly has endorsed my proposal by the passage of Colorado House Joint Resolution 99–1053 sponsored by State Representative Brad Young, and State Senator Mark Hillman. Colorado's concern for small agriculture producers is now a matter of official public policy, and I commend the leadership of Representative Young and Senator Hillman. Mr. Speaker, this Congress should fully consider and embrace the recommendation of the Colorado General Assembly on this important matter of farm tax relief. Accordingly, I hereby submit for the RECORD, Colorado's official position put by House Joint Resolution 99–1053.

Whereas, Employers who pay cash wages of \$20,000 or more to farm workers in any calendar quarter or employ 10 or more employees at least part time during at least 20 different weeks in a calendar year are required to pay federal unemployment taxes in accordance with the federal "Unemployment Tax Act", and

Whereas, The \$20,000 threshold has not been adjusted since 1978 when federal unemployment tax liability was first imposed upon farm and ranch employees, and the average size of farms and ranches continues to increase as the number of farms and ranches decreases; and

Whereas, While farm production and efficiency have increased, rising costs, imports, and falling commodity prices all threaten the economic security of the nation's family farmers; and

Whereas, Given the crisis situation in American agriculture, America's family farmers need tax relief to maintain their operations and their families; and

Whereas, Unless America's farm families obtain needed tax relief, these farmers may be forced to sell their land, opening the door for development and threatening the well-being of local economies dependent upon small farms; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein:* That we, the members of the Sixty-second General Assembly, request the Congress of the United States to pass legislation to amend the federal "Unemployment Tax Act" to increase the maximum amount of wages that a farmer can pay for agricultural labor without being subject to the federal unemployment tax on such labor, to reflect the effects of inflation on such maximum amount of wages since such tax was first enacted, and to provide for an annual inflation adjust-

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ment in such maximum amount of wages; be it further

*Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor, and to each member of Colorado's delegation to the United States Congress.

## SUPPORT OF THE AIR 21 LEGISLATION

### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 16, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Air 21 legislation. I believe it is a fair attempt to ensure the safety and economic well being of our nation and its airports. I also support the Shuster manager's amendment. Mr. Speaker this legislation is fair and right. For those who oppose immediate elimination of slots this amendment postpones the elimination of slots at O'Hare for two years until 2002, and for New York's Kennedy and Laganardia airports until 2007. This will allow many of the smaller airlines increased access to larger airports ultimately increasing flight availability, reduced flight delays and decreased airfares.

It is imperative that Congress seize this opportunity to invest in our nation's aviation system and protect the flying public. Mr. Speaker, while airports are crowded today, air travel is forecast to increase by over 50 percent to one billion passengers over the next 10 years. We desperately need more funding to curb the increasing demand on our nation's airport. Capacity constraints and air traffic control outages have caused many flight delays and cancellations. Air 21 will enable America to continue to prosper and avoid gridlock in our aviation system. If we fail to invest in our nation's aviation system we will compromise aviation safety, increase delay time and hinder much needed technological innovations. Air 21 is exactly what we need, it provides airport modernization, improves capacity, and increases fair competition.

For this reason I support Air 21 and urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this very important legislation.

## HELP FOR THE UNINSURED: H.R. 2185

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on June 14, I introduced H.R. 2185, the Health Insurance for Americans Act, to provide refundable tax credits for the purchase of health insurance through a consumer co-op type of mechanism.

We must act to revise America's health care system. The current system of employer-based coverage is dying, as the following quote from a May 1999 study for the Health Insurance Association of America by Dr. William Custer, makes clear:

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There were 31.8 million uninsured non-elderly Americans in 1987. In 1997, this number had risen to 43.1 million, which represents a 35.5 percent increase. From 1996 to 1997 alone, the number of non-elderly Americans without health insurance rose by 4.1 percent. And this report forecasts that the number of uninsured Americans will climb to 53 million during the next ten years and could, if the nation experiences an economic downturn and higher-than-predicted health-care cost inflation, reach 60 million by 2007. This would mean that almost one of every four non-elderly Americans would lack health coverage.

The primary reason for the increase in the number of Americans without health coverage over the past 15 years has been the increase of health care costs relative to family income. Almost six of every ten uninsured Americans lives in families with incomes of less than 200% of the federal poverty level. And while public programs such as Medicaid provide health coverage to about half of those in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, these individuals account for nearly three out of every ten uninsured Americans.

Is there hope that other proposals will noticeably reduce the number of uninsured? For example, various Republicans are pushing the idea of Health Marts and Association Health Plans as forums where small businessmen can buy cheaper health insurance policies for their workers. But we know from polling of many small businesses that they have no interest in being in the health insurance-providing business. Even if it didn't cost them a penny, a majority of small businesses have said they didn't want to be involved in this process!

In addition, a May 1999 study by the National Coalition on Health Care entitled "Small Employer Health Insurance Purchasing Arrangements: Can They Expand Coverage?" reports:

The central conclusion of this study is that while Health Marts and Association Health Plans will offer advantages to some small firms and may somewhat reduce the deterioration in health insurance coverage in the U.S., they will not by themselves solve the problem of the uninsured. That is primarily because, on balance, neither Health Marts nor Association Health Plans are likely to reduce health costs enough to significantly entice most small firms not now offering coverage to buy health insurance. In addition, benefit packages that are significantly less comprehensive than typical do not seem to have broad appeal, and may still be too costly for most small businesses . . .

Even the most optimistic estimates of the impact of eliminating state mandated benefits or implementing Association Health Plans suggest that between 80% and 80% of the 43 million Americans who are uninsured today would remain uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that we need to try new approaches to a problem which is growing evermore serious. Following is a summary of the tax credit bill I have introduced. I hope my colleagues will join me in exploring this approach.

## SUMMARY OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR AMERICANS ACT

### REFUNDABLE TAX CREDIT FOR PURCHASE OF QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE

Amount: \$1,200/adult; \$600 per dependent child, \$3,600 max per family. Dollar amounts

adjusted by annual inflation in Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) average premium increase.

Eligibility: Anyone not participating in subsidized employer plan or public plan, or eligible for Medicare.

#### QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE

Is private sector insurance sold through new HHS Office of Health Insurance (OHI).

Insurance must be guaranteed issue/no waiting period, no pre-existing condition, community rated policies.

OHI will negotiate on price, ensure quality of providers and adequacy of benefit package (Like the Office of Personnel Management does for FEHBP now), and hold open enrollment periods to facilitate comparison pricing.

Every insurer selling to FEHBP must offer to sell similar policies to OHI, but may also offer zero premium policies.

OHI will serve as an administrative device to move tax credit from IRS to the insurer selected by the individual, thus providing 'advance funding' and preventing fraud.

Effective date: 2001.

Financing: Not spelled out in bill. Can be surplus, business tax, VAT, insurer/provider surtax, savings from reduced subsidies to providers to provide for the uninsured.

### IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, the Endangered Species Act of 1973 was well-intentioned legislation. But the Fish and Wildlife Service, especially in California, is working outside of the ESA and undermining its original intent.

Today, I am dropping the third in a series of single-issue bills to make common sense corrections to the ESA. My bill would prohibit the use of any information obtained by trespassing on privately owned property without the consent of the owner. This bill would restrict Fish and Wildlife from using any information that was illegally obtained to declare habitat or otherwise administer the Endangered Species Act.

It is common sense that trespassing is illegal. We all know that. Yet I continue to hear, over and over, that Fish and Wildlife is using information that was questionably obtained to administer the ESA. Mr. Speaker, the Fish and Wildlife Service is not above the law. While Fish and Wildlife employees may or may not be the ones doing the actual trespassing, they have continually shown a disregard for how information was obtained, thereby encouraging trespassing.

In May, the Resources Committee held a hearing with community officials and landowners to outline the problems they are having with Fish and Wildlife's implementation of the ESA. Every member of Congress needs to sit up and take notice and talk to their local officials. This is not just a problem in California, but in places as far east as North Carolina and as far north as Washington.

I'm frustrated, Mr. Speaker. So frustrated that I will introduce one ESA reform bill every

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week until the field hearing on July 9. This is a call to common sense.

#### RECOGNITION OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID HENDERSON'S RETIREMENT

#### HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Command Sergeant Major David Henderson, who will retire from the Army on Monday, June 21, 1999. CMS Henderson has distinguished himself through more than twenty-five years of service to this great nation. I've had the privilege of getting to know CMS Henderson over the last several months, and it is clear after a moment in his company that he possesses a most unique quality of leadership. Like so many of our nation's great figures, CMS Henderson leads by example, bringing out the very best of all those who serve under his command. His genuine concern for and commitment to his soldiers serve as a model for others who seek to inspire excellence.

Over the last ten years, CMS Henderson has served as his unit's senior Non-Commissioned Officer. He has thrice led his men into combat missions which include Operations Urgent Fury, Just Cause, and Desert Shield/Storm. CMS Henderson's service during training, field exercises, and forward deployments is exemplary in every respect.

Mr. Speaker, the Army and our nation will lose a fine soldier this coming Monday. And while his departure from service is a loss for this country, I'm confident that he has instilled in many young men and women the motivation to strive for the best. I'm honored that I will be a guest at CMS Henderson's retirement ceremony. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to CMS Henderson and in wishing him the absolute best in his future endeavors.

#### IN HONOR OF THE LATE MS. ELIZABETH JEAN BAIN

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to take this moment to recognize the remarkable life and significant achievements and contributions of one of Colorado's finest, Ms. Elizabeth Jean Bain. Ms. Bain passed away on Monday, June 14, 1999, at age 89. While family, friends, colleagues, and community members remember the truly exceptional life of Jean Bain, I, too, would like to pay tribute to this remarkable woman.

Born in 1909, Ms. Bain was a member of one of Colorado's pioneering families, and the spirit, work ethic, and leadership of a pioneer was exemplified in her. Jean was a graduate of East High School and the University of Col-

orado. In 1960, she was elected to serve as a Republican to the Colorado General Assembly where she worked for 12 years to represent the city of Denver.

Serving on more than 30 boards and advisory councils, she provided leadership and inspiration to all she came into contact with. Ms. Bain, at one time, was a trustee of the University of Northern Colorado and Doane College in Crete, NE, and was a member of the National Executive Council of the United Church of Christ. She also found time to serve as director of the Colorado Mental Health Association, the Metropolitan Denver YMCA, the Better Business Bureau of Denver, the Girls Club and the Mile High Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Ms. Jean Bain touched many lives through her involvement in the community and through her desire to serve others. Although her professional accomplishments will long be remembered and admired, most who knew her well will remember her dedication to service and the inspiration she provided. It is clear that the multitude of those who have come to know Ms. Bain will be worse off in her absence. I am confident, however, that in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Ms. Jean Bain can take comfort in the knowledge that each is a better person for having known her.

#### HONORING J. SAVAGE, S.J.

#### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Father Thomas J. Savage, S.J., the 11th President of Rockhurst College. The passing of this exceptional man leaves us with a great sense of sadness and grief. Fr. Thom cannot easily be described in words but the impact he made upon the Greater Kansas City region is monumental and reflects his selflessness, lifelong mission to assist those most in need. He was not just a leader but a visionary whose accomplishments continue to positively affect our community.

Fr. Thom was especially talented in three areas of expertise: urban planning, education, and spirituality. During his tenure at Rockhurst College, he directed the campus renovation and construction of several facilities including the state of the art Richardson Science Center, the Town House Village, the Jesuit Residence, and Van Ackersen Hall. His goal was to expand Rockhurst's services to its students and to the community. Never forgetting the College's neighbors, he made great efforts to make the school inclusive by taking advantage of its urban location. By using valuable input and resources from members of the community as he further developed the area, he opened communication and strengthened a lasting friendship and alliance with the neighbors of Rockhurst.

Committed to lifelong learning and the Rockhurst motto: "Not what to think, but how to think," Fr. Thom supervised and supported the revision of the college's liberal arts core